

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 103
(Warehouse Type WH-T)
(Warehouse Supply and Equipment)
Supply St. between Walnut and Maple Sts.
Mt. Clemens vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-R

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Great Lakes Systems Office
Department of the Interior
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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SELFRIDGE FIELD, HAER No. MI-116-R
BUILDING #103(WAREHOUSE TYPE WH-T)
(Warehouse Supply and Equipment)

Location: South of George Street between Walnut and Maple Streets
Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mt. Clemens vicinity,
Macomb County, Michigan
U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350610.4718940

Significance: This building is erected from standardized plans and is typical of the functional structures erected during the rapid World War II expansion of the base.

Description: This building is a rectangular plan, 192 foot by 50 foot, single story, side-gabled, concrete block structure. The ridge of the asphalt shingle sheathed roof is broken by four large vent hoods, and rises above a wood frieze and fascia. The building is distinguished by its concrete foundation, which slopes outward from the concrete floor to the grade four feet below and brick pilasters that occur on all elevations between concrete block curtain walls.

The north elevation is comprised of ten bays defined by a variety of functional devices including three track suspended sliding steel cargo doors above loading platforms shielded by a porch supported on steel beams, five square fixed steel windows, a projecting 19 foot 4 inch by 23 foot 8 inch concrete block boiler room/coal room unit with a square brick standard bond stack, and a corner steel pedestrian entry door. The gabled west elevation is a symmetrical composition, composed of four nine-lighted wood windows and equidistantly placed brick structural pilasters with cast concrete coping, while the south elevation is comprised almost entirely of a loading dock that is now enclosed in a recent vertically seamed metal shed of wood frame construction. The four bays of the east elevation are defined by two central gable window voids, now sheathed in plywood, and lateral brick pilasters that are flanked by two window voids, one a nine-lighted window and the other a louvered vent.

The interior of this building is functional open space. While much of the eastern bays of the building were composed of large refrigeration boxes, a meat cutting room, a Unit Room and

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Shipping Room, most of the floor plan west of the cargo doors was occupied by non-refrigerated food supply storage, as well as three walk in refrigerated units, the office, and toilet rooms. The original cargo doors on this building were constructed of diagonal tongue and groove with 1 inch by 6 inch bracing. This floor plan survives intact today although the ceiling has been lowered to conserve energy.

History:

"Warehouse Type WH-T, Modified," was constructed in 1943 from Corps of Engineers, Detroit District plans and may have been constructed by the Gilbert Douglas Company of Detroit. This building was built from standardized plans as a commissary storage facility, and it continued to function as a cold storage facility until recently. It currently is used as a general storage building. It has undergone minimal modification.

In 1946 the "new forced warm air heating plant and boiler room" was added to the north elevation according to plans of the Office of the Post Engineer. In 1948 it experienced interior renovations including the addition of a meat cutting room and additional minor repairs were completed in 1962 according on plans provided by the Office of the Post Engineer, Selfridge Field. During the 1970s the south loading dock was enclosed in vertical-seam metal siding.

Source:

Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960. Unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

Nigro, Louis, Selfridge Air National Guard Base, An Unofficial History, 1977. Unpublished ms., Public Information Office, Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan.

Selfridge Field News "Expansion to Make Selfridge Large Air Base," August 13, 1942 (on file Burton Historical Collection, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor).

_____, "New Contract Awarded in Expansion Program," April 15, 1943, (on file Burton Historical Collection, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor).

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Copy of construction drawing, dated April 23, 1962, Wheeler, Becker & Associates, Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Repair of Cold Storage Building No. 103, Elevations and Details, Sheet 2 of 3, Drawing SLF-430-004.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum

Historian:

William E. Rutter
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May, 1996